

<b>Interview Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/827,499	FRIEDERICH ET AL.	
	Examiner David C. Reese	Art Unit 3677	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) David C. Reese. (3) Heinrich Friederich.  
 (2) Michael Lasky. (4) Dr.-Ing. Lars Birken.

Date of Interview: 10 April 2007.

Type: a) Telephonic b) Video Conference  
 c) Personal [copy given to: 1) applicant 2) applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) Yes e) No.

If Yes, brief description: A working model of the instant invention was shown.

Claim(s) discussed: 12 and 13.

Identification of prior art discussed: Hsiao, Wagner, and EP 0989311.

Agreement with respect to the claims f) was reached. g) was not reached. h) N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: See Continuation Sheet.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

**Katherine Mitchell**  
**Primary Examiner**



Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.

Examiner's signature, if required

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: The interview began with Mr. Friederich giving a background of lock washers; problems associated with said washers; and how the applicant's invention differs and helps alleviate said problems associated with the discussed lock washers. One of the novel characteristics of the given invention, as stated by the above party, and as agreed by the examiner, appears to be the spring element having a lower hardness than the screw element. The examiner recommended that in response to the most recent office action, Mr. Friederick submit a declaration explaining the critically of the above feature. Examiner stated that with a proper declaration, denoting the criticality of the above feature, the claim appears to be allowable over the prior art of record.